

Endnotes

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Glossary of Terms

Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) – a “good faith” legal agreement between EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to cleanup a site instead of EPA issuing an order or the agency paying for it then recovering the funds from the PRPs later.

ATSDR – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. As a federal public health agency, the ATSDR performs functions that include: public health assessments of hazardous waste sites, health consultations addressing a specific hazardous substance, development of informative resources to disseminate to the public, and training concerning hazardous substances.

CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (also known as Superfund). Passed by Congress in 1980 and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), CERCLA gave EPA the authority to pursue the remediation of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. A fee collected from the petroleum and chemical industry facilitated the cleanup of abandoned or “orphaned” sites where a viable responsible party could not be identified (Superfund trust fund.)

Closure plan – submittal of a plan by a permitted facility that includes: how each hazardous waste management unit will be closed, how final closure of the facility will be achieved, an estimate of the maximum amount of hazardous waste kept on site during a facility’s operating life, a detailed description of closure methods (waste removal and site decontamination), and a schedule of dates by which each step will be met.

IDEM – Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The Indiana state environmental agency established in 1986: IDEM’s mission is “to implement federal and state regulations to protect human health and the environment while allowing environmentally sound operations of industrial, agricultural, commercial and government activities vital to a prosperous economy.”

Preliminary Assessment (PA) – an initial and limited evaluation of a site to determine if the site requires further investigation or action. One of the first steps undertaken by federal and state agencies upon notification of a hazardous waste site or release.

RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. See EJ Toolkit for more information.

RFI – RCRA Facility Investigation. An investigation and characterization of the sources of contamination and the nature, extent, movement, and concentration of releases of hazardous waste that have been or are likely to be released into the environment from a facility/site.

USEPA/EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency. The mission of USEPA is to protect human health and the environment through scientific research and development, development and enforcement of regulations, public education programs, and giving grants to state and local environmental organizations.

VOC – Volatile organic compound. See EJ Toolkit for more information.

Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) – IDEM’s process by which owners and operators of contaminated sites can voluntarily choose to investigate and cleanup the site. Often seen prior to the redevelopment or preparation of sale of a property.

QA/QC – Quality Assurance/Quality Control. The process by which a laboratory checks to see if precise and accurate data has been generated. QA/QC reports give much greater confidence to a set of data and can be the difference between sampling data being considered “usable” or “unusable” to base environmental decision-making on.